

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claims 21 and 37, claims 18 to 20, 22 to 24, 26 to 36, and 38 to 46 are pending in the present application, since claim 25 was previously canceled. It is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statements, PTO-1449 papers, and cited references.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 21 and 37 are allowable. In this regard, the Examiner will note that each of the independent claims, *i.e.*, claims 18, 30, and 38, has been amended herein without prejudice to include the subject matter of the allowable claims (claims 21 and 37), thereby rendering moot the claim rejections. Therefore, all of claims 18 to 20, 22 to 24, 26 to 36, and 38 to 46 are in condition for immediate allowance.

Accordingly, all of the pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as originally and/or previously presented in a continuation and/or divisional patent application. Further, any disclaimer that may have occurred during the prosecution of this application is expressly rescinded as regards any subsequently filed patent application.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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